

# Step up to A Level Art Transition workbook

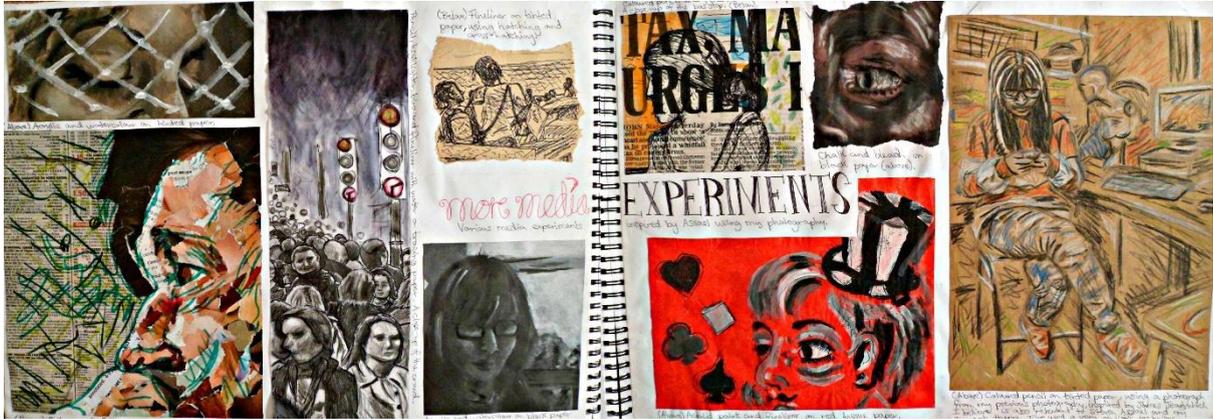


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## Task 1a: Artist Research

Research one of the following artists- create a presentation that explains:

- who they were
- how they became an artist
- what sort of art they made and how
- analyses at least two key pieces of their work

a. Jenny Saville

b. Alice Neel



c. Frida Kahlo

**1. GUIDE TO RESEARCH an artist.**



- a. Find out basic biographical information: DOB/DOD; dates of working (do they fit into a particular Art Movement); country they were/are working in; if they have a common theme or style that runs through the majority of their work.
- b. Who is the artist?
  - a. Name
  - b. Date of birth, and death of applicable.
  - c. Where were they born?
  - d. Where did/do they live and work?
  - e. What is the main medium (paint, clay etc.) that they work in?
- f. Find **at least three images of their work**; ensure these are good quality images. Illustrate your research with these images and analyse open of them in more detail

## **2. More detailed questions to answer for extensive research (potentially higher marks):**

- g. What experiences did they have in their life, including childhood influences that impacted/impacts on their art?*
- h. Training and other creative experiences that they were inspired by.*
- i. Are/were they aligned with a particular art movement?*
- j. Do they have a main genre they are known for (painting portraits for example)?*
- k. What is their work about, a common theme or style?*
- l. What subjects / themes / moods / issues / messages are explored? Why are these relevant or important to the artist (or you)?*

## **3. Analyse a key artwork by the artist:**

- i. What appeals to you visually about this artwork?
- ii. What is the message or intention of the artwork?
- iii. How does the composition of the artwork (i.e. the relationship between the visual elements: line, shape, colour, tone, texture and space) help to communicate ideas and reinforce a message? Why might this composition have been chosen? (Discuss in terms of how the visual elements interact and create visual devices that 'draw attention', 'emphasise', 'balance', 'link' and/or 'direct the viewer through the artwork' etc.)
- iv. What mediums, techniques (mark-making methods), styles and processes have been used? How do these communicate a message? How do they affect the mood of the artwork and the communication of ideas? Are these methods useful for your own project?
- v. How could you use the information gathered to inspire your own work?

Websites that will help with your research:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/f/figurative-art>

<https://www.fridakahlo.org/>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2021/alice-neel>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/r-b-kitaj-1416>

<http://www.tate.org.uk/>

<http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/collections>

<http://www.moma.org>

<http://exhibitions.guggenheim.org>

<http://www.metmuseum.org>

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>

<http://www.npg.org.uk/>

<https://www.sfmoma.org/>

## **1b. Visual Research**

Draw a range of images of yourself, or another person who you can ask to pose for you (not just using photos).

- a. Face
- b. Full body
- c. Seated pose
- d. Relaxed pose
- e. Engaged/action pose

Use a range of drawing materials to make your drawings, such as pen, felt-tip, chalk etc. try experimenting with unusual drawing materials such as food colouring and cocktail sticks. You should generate a minimum of ten drawings.

See attached guide to drawing faces and figures and watch these tutorials:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdSzAOgSuew>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T3cxSySI2Q>

There are other video tutorials that you may find useful too; a good artist looks for lessons and inspiration from many sources.

You can watch and learn from the Royal Academy online tutorial, **PLEASE be warned there is an almost fully nude model, they are only wearing underwear:**

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/online-life-drawing-class-lifedrawinglive>

## **2. Developing Ideas**

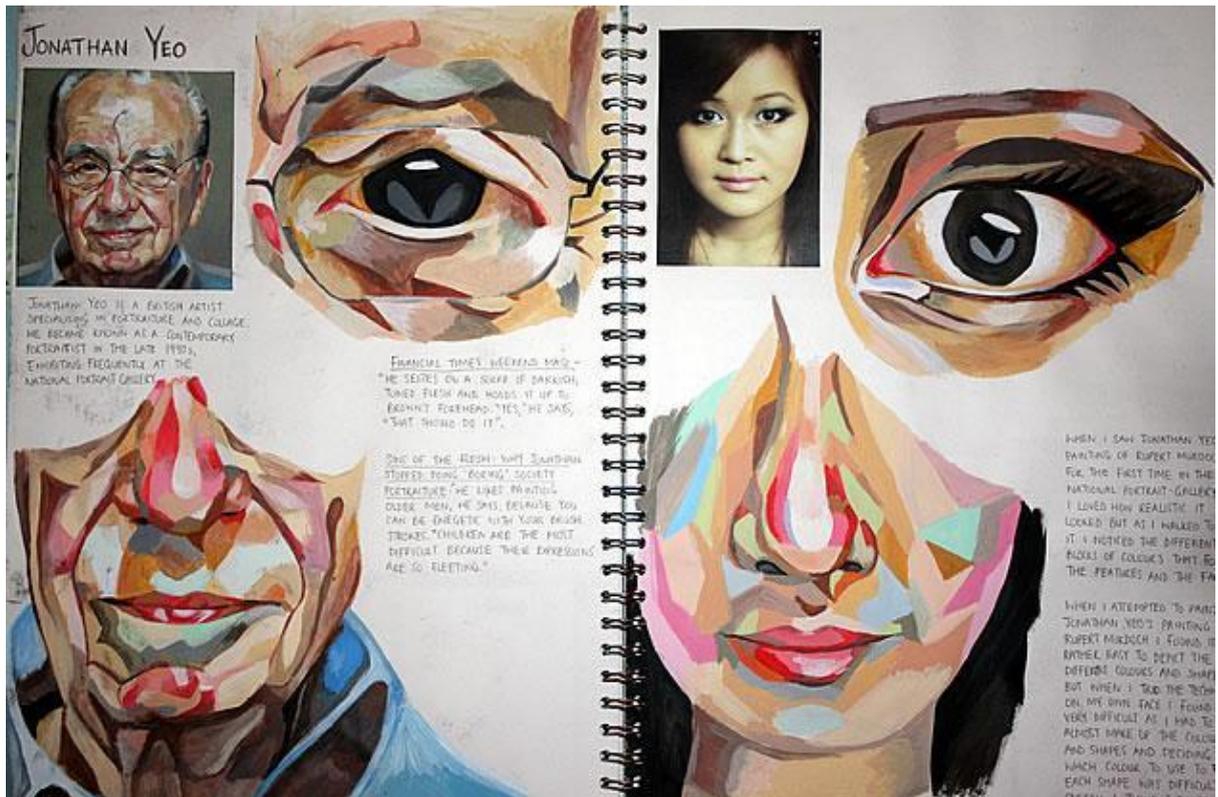
You now need to blend your skills from your analysis and observational drawing sessions

Draw yourself or another person in the style of your chosen artist.

Draw them in at least three different poses (similar to those set in Task 1b if you wish).

Evaluate them to explain which is the most effective in terms of its composition and what it conveys about you or the person you are making the artwork about.

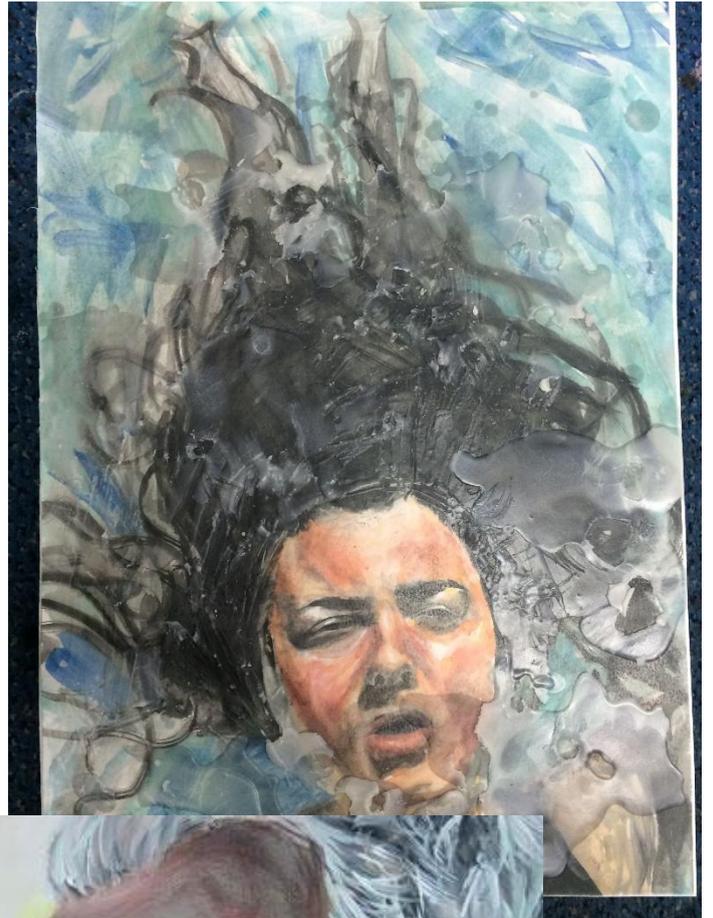
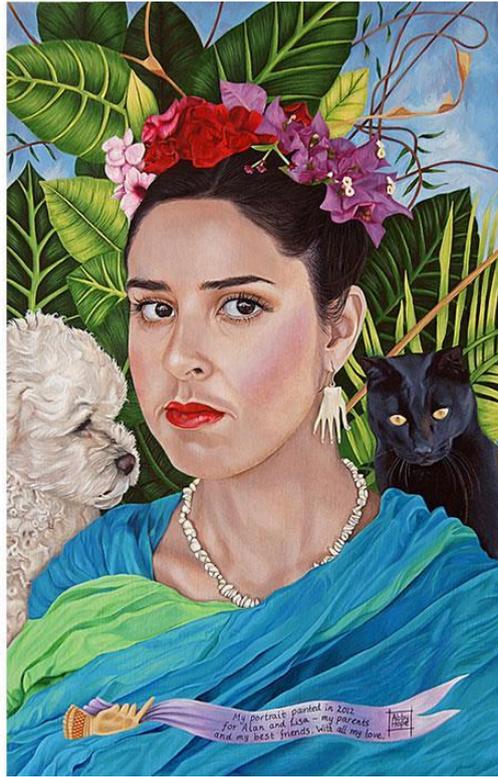
Decide which of your ideas is the most effective OR what combination of the three could be most effective? Draw this out full page (A4).



### 3. Final Piece

Create a full-page piece of work- if you would like cartridge paper or card to do this on please email me and I can leave this in reception for you to pick up.

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Using acrylic I  
started with simple  
pencil lines and  
then as my  
sketches  
I started to  
add more  
color and  
texture to the  
work.

